Raids against IRS officers

609. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of IRS officers, against whom raids were conducted by the CBI on charges of corruption during the last three years, till date; and

(b) the nature of departmental and other action taken against them so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

New branches of foreign banks

610. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to provide more liberal market access to foreign banks, India has offered at least 20 new branches of foreign banks every year;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the limit bound by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as of now is 12 foreign bank branches every year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) In the "Road Map for presence of foreign banks in India" issued by RBI on 28.02.2005, it is proposed to go beyond the existing World Trade Organisation (WTO) commitment of 12 branches in a year for new and existing foreign banks. The number of branches permitted each year has already been higher than the WTO commitments. For under-banked areas, a more liberal policy will be followed.

Encouragement of foreign investment

†611. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Great Britain and other countries of European

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.